

VZCZCXRO4961
PP RUEHBZ RUEH DU RUEHGI RUEHMA RUEHMR RUEHPA RUEHRN RUEHROV RUEHTRO
DE RUEHNJ #0139/01 1111032
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 211032Z APR 09
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6871
INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNFUR/DARFUR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 NDJAMENA 000139

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

STATE FOR AF/C AND AF/USSES
NSC FOR GAVIN AND HUDSON
LONDON FOR POL -- LORD
PARIS FOR POL -- D'ELIA AND KANEDA
ADDIS ABABA ALSO FOR AU

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [CD](#)
SUBJECT: CHAD: AN ELECTORAL HISTORY (1959-2009).

REF: A. NDJAMENA 089
[B](#). NDJAMENA 070

SUMMARY

[1](#). (SBU) A key U.S. goal in Chad involves the success of the August 13 Accord process, which comprises political and electoral reforms leading to credible legislative and local elections in 2010 and similar presidential elections in 2011.

The Chadian people have had a variety of national voting experiences over the past 50 years. We provide in this message basic information on that performance, in order to lend perspective to Chad's current efforts toward a free and fair set of elections.

[2](#). (SBU) The August 13 Accord calls for legislative and local (municipal) elections in 2009/2010, and presidential elections in 2011. This would be the first time that local (municipal) elections have ever been held in Chad.

[3](#). (SBU) In all, Chad's voters have gone to the polls some 15 times: seven times to elect legislatures; five times to elect a president; and three times in national referenda.

CHRONOLOGY

[4](#). (U) The history of Chad's election and referenda:

1959: Election of Territorial Assembly: Chadian Progressive Party (PPT), led by Francois Tombalbaye, won 57 of 85 seats.

(1960: Independence from France.)

1962: National Assembly Election: Won by PPT, the sole legal political party.

1962: Presidential Election: Francois Tombalbaye ran unopposed and was elected with 97 percent of the vote of the Electoral College.

1963: National Assembly Election: Won by PPT, the sole legal political party.

1969: Presidential Election: Francois Tombalbaye ran unopposed and was elected.

1969: National Assembly Election: Won by PPT, the sole

legal political party.

1989: Constitutional Referendum: President Hissene Habre's Constitution adopted by vote of 99.9 percent.

1990: National Assembly Election: The sole legal party, Habre's UNIR party, wins all 123 seats.

(1990: Idriss Deby seizes power from Habre.)

(1991: National Charter adopted and Idriss Deby declared President by his own MPS party coalition.)

1996: Constitutional Referendum: President Idriss Deby's new constitution approved by 63 percent of voters.

1996: Presidential Election: Idriss Deby wins on second round with 69 percent of votes.

1997: National Assembly Election: Deby's MPS party coalition wins 65 of 125 seats.

2001: Presidential Election: Deby wins with 63 percent of votes.

2002: National Assembly Election: Deby's MPS party coalition wins 110 of 155 seats.

2005: Constitutional Amendment Referendum: Presidential term limits removed, on Deby's initiative.

NDJAMENA 00000139 002 OF 003

2006: Presidential Election: Idriss Deby wins with 64 percent of votes; most opposition parties boycott this polling.

PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS

15. (SBU) Chad has had five Presidential Elections since independence in 1960. The first two -- in 1962 and 1969 -- were single-candidate affairs in which Francois Tombalbaye was elected. Tombalbaye continued in power until 1975, when he was assassinated.

16. (SBU) The three contested Presidential elections -- 1996, 2001, 2006 -- were won by Idriss Deby.

1996

-- First Round: Deby won the first round with 43 percent, finishing ahead of Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue (12 percent), Saleh Kebzabo (nine percent), Jean-Bawayeou Alingue (eight percent), Lol Mahamat Choua (six percent), Younous Ibedou (three percent), Adoum Moussa Seif (three percent) and Abdoulaye Lamana (three percent), Delwa Kassire Coumakouye (two percent), Ngarlejoy Yorongar (two percent) Mahamat Abdoulaye (two percent), four others with less than two percent. Voter turnout was 68 percent.

-- Second Round: Deby won the runoff with 69 percent, beating Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue with 31 percent. Voter turnout was estimated at 77 percent.

2001

-- Deby won in the only round necessary with 63 percent, defeating Ngarlejy Yorongar (16 percent), Saleh Kebzabo (seven percent), Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue (six percent), Ibni Oumar Saleh Mahamat (three percent), Delwa Kassire Coumakouye (two percent), and Jean-Bawayeou Alingue (two percent). Voter turnout was 61 percent.

2006

-- Deby won in the only round necessary with 65 percent, defeating Delwa Kassire Coumakouye (15 percent), Albert Packimi Padacke (eight percent), Mahamat Abdoulaye (seven percent), and Brahim Koulamallah (five percent). Voter turnout was 53 percent. Because most opposition parties boycotted this polling, all four of Deby's major opponents were actually political allies whose candidatures lent the outcome statistical credibility. All were subsequently appointed to senior GOC positions.

WANNABES
AND SURVIVORS

¶7. (U) Many of the contenders for the presidency in the three Deby-won elections are playing various and sometimes important roles in Chadian political life.

-- Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue: Current Minister of Defense.
-- Saleh Kebzabo: Deputy, leading member CPDC (Opposition party coalition).
-- Jean-Bawayeou Alingue: Current Minister of Justice.
-- Lol Mahamat Choua: Deputy, leading member CPDC (Opposition party coalition).
-- Abdoulaye Lamana: Current President of Oil Revenue Monitoring Mechanism.
-- Delwa Kassire Coumakouye: Current President of Economic Social and Cultural Council.
-- Ngarlejy Yorongar: Deputy, leading independent opposition

NDJAMENA 00000139 003 OF 003

party leader.

-- Albert Packimi Padacke: Current Minister of Post and Information Technology.
-- Brahim Koulamallah: Deputy, leading member, MPS (Governing party coalition).

NIGRO